



## Human Rights Commission Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, Jan 19, 2022

**Time:** 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM

**Location:** Conducted by Remote Participation

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of video conferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Co-Chair Pusey, Co-Chair Jolin, Commissioners Bauer, Rogers, Carey, Soneja, Carney, Haynes, Horowitz, Grossman, Minton

Absent: Commissioner Brown

DEI Office: Jillian Harvey, Christina Coleman

Community Members: Rebecca Gruber, Crystal Howard, Richard Flynn

Meeting called to order at 8:00 pm by Co-chair Pusey

Land acknowledgement by Co-chair Jolin

## Agenda

1. Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgement (5 min)
2. Review of Dec Minutes (5 min)
  - a. *Motion to approve by Commissioner Bauer, seconded by Commissioner Soneja – approved with unanimous vote - 1 abstention (Commissioner Grossman)*
3. Review of Dec Community Input (1 min)
4. Co-chair Report (5 min)
  - a. Town Manager Meeting
    - i. Discussion about most recent incident – will be discussed during incident section
    - ii. Brainstormed about reaching more Arlington residents with the Envision Arlington Survey
  - b. Meeting with Chief of Police
    - i. Discussed annual report numbers – same number of cases reported as last year
    - ii. 2 cases missing but were handled by commissioners as they were reported by the victims
  - c. Co-Chairs
    - i. Rainbow Commission will be losing 1 co-chair this year
    - ii. Disability Commission looking for ideas to properly allocate their funds
  - d. Upcoming Commissioner appointment deadlines
    - i. 8 commissioners have terms ending in 2022
    - ii. If commissioners intend to continue – please reach out to your appointing body to express interest
5. New Co-Chair vote (5 min)
  - a. *Motion to nominate Christine Carney and Rajeev Soneja – by Commissioner Grossman and seconded by Commissioner Rogers*
  - b. *Motion to move with the nomination by Commissioner Minton, seconded by Commissioner Carey – approved with unanimous vote*
6. DEI Division updates (10 min) – Jillian
  - a. MLK program aired on ACMi – MLK Committee is looking for members
  - b. Envision Arlington Survey – purpose is for policy making not to track trends within the community; organization, engagement, and diversity needed by community
  - c. Community Equity Audit will be started in April 2022 – expense is estimated at ~\$110,000 through ARPA funding
  - d. Community Outreach and Engagement position approved for the DEI department
  - e. Arlington Elevating Voices of Color – submissions due Jan 31 – go-live will be Feb 7<sup>th</sup> – event will be held on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> - priority for the year
  - f. Restructure programming for Employee Stand Against Racism Campaign – 1-2 talks throughout the month of April
  - g. Friends of the Robbins Library Event – March 2022
7. Working Group Q&A (15 min)
  - a. Schools and Education
    - i. Letter to School Committee and Superintendent to support

Genocide Education Act which recently passed (needs vote)

1. Letter will support teachings at all grade levels
2. Holocaust genocide as well as overall genocide against any group should be taught
3. Help students become leaders and encourage the building of democratic values
4. Commission will provide support to APS through monetary means
5. In accordance with the provisions of the act – the commission would offer to partner
6. *Motion to support letter writing by working group and expediate approval through Co-chairs by Commissioner Grossman seconded by Commissioner Bauer – passed unanimously*
  - b. Outreach/Events
    - i. Reviewed year ahead to support community conversations and elevating voices of color
    - ii. Identified events for 2022 – Juneteenth, IPD, etc.
    - iii. Discussed permanent BLM art piece in town
    - iv. Black History Month – working with arts commission jury for submissions; 1 adult and 2 students from Ottoson (\$500 scholarships each) will create banners for a total of 14
    - v. Jasmine Milton will be part of the Artist Talk during the month
    - vi. Bookmarks will be printed and dropped off at the schools
    - vii. Select board presentation submitted – Commissioner Haynes to attend
    - viii. Newsletter to be produced to highlight stories behind the banners
  - c. Communications
    - i. Mailchimp access denied – Commissioner Pusey to escalate
    - ii. Utilize town alert system, schools list, and Robbins library list if possible
    - iii. Incident reporting form should be converted into an e-form for ease of use by the community
    - iv. Need more volunteers to help coordinate efforts
  - d. Housing
    - i. Did not meet
    - ii. Community member showed interest in volunteering – contact information has been sent to Co-Chair Carney
  - e. IPD
    - i. No updates
8. MAHRC – Co-Chair Pusey (1 min)
  - a. Friday morning meetings – once monthly at 9:30 am
  - b. Need volunteers to help attend regularly – contact Commissioner Pusey
  - c. Feb/Mar – Co-Chair Soneja will attend
9. Chief's Advisory Council – Commissioner Grossman (1 min)
  - a. No meeting
10. Civilian Review Board Exploratory Committee – Commissioner Rogers (1 min)
  - a. Warrant article will be presented at the next select board
  - b. Will share final proposal with the commission in the coming months
  - c. Group of 13 members

- i. 12/13 supported efforts to move forward with 9-13 members for a civilian review board to explore types of complaints and act as advocates for the community
  - ii. 1/13 did not feel a board was necessary
- 11. Warrant Article for AHRC bylaw edits (needs vote) – Commissioner Rogers (10 min)
  - a. Bylaws sent to Commissioners for review
  - b. Removes outdated language as well as including a description of the DEI coordinator
  - c. Incoming and outgoing Co-Chairs to reach out to Doug Heim to follow up on Commissioner Rogers email
  - d. *Motion to accept revisions to be presented to select board through warrant article by Commissioner Grossman seconded by Commissioner Pusey – passed unanimously*
- 12. Community Input (15 min)
  - a. none
- 13. Incidents (10 min) - Commissioner Minton/Pusey
  - a. Anti-police graffiti
  - b. Vandalism at the Leslie Ellis School – lawn library (Commissioner Pusey to meet with School Reps)
    - i. APD providing extra patrol around the school
  - c. Harassment at Menotomy Manor
    - i. Meeting with the housing authority director has been scheduled between the 2 tenants
    - ii. Reports to APD have not mentioned racial incidents – i.e – noise complaints, etc.
- 14. Announcements (10 min)
  - a. Goals and Objectives discussion in Feb.
  - b. 2022 meeting calendar
    - i. Final schedule to be sent to Commissioners by Commissioner Jolin
  - c. Coffee Chats
    - i. On hold – discussion to proceed
  - d. Incident Handling
    - i. Jan – Commissioner Pusey
    - ii. Feb – Commissioner Jolin

*Motion to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Horowitz, seconded by Commissioner Pusey – passed unanimously*

**Next meeting:** Mar 16, 2022, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, [jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.